

## **The True Worshipers in the New Testament Age**

(John 4:19-24; 1 Pet. 2:4-7, 9; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Tim. 3:15-16)

### **I. The way of worship ordained by God in the age of the Old Covenant**

#### **A. Jerusalem – the unique place chosen by the Lord God among the 12 tribes** (Deut. 12:5, 11, 14, 18, 21, 26; 14:23, 24-25; 15:19-20; 16:6-7, 11, 15-16)

1. Not according to man's choice
2. No one should do what is right in his own eyes (Deut. 12:8)
3. Not according to the ways of the nations (Deut. 12:2-4)
  - a. Having different places of worship – upon the high mountains and hills and under every leafy tree
  - b. Each having his own altar with pillars
  - c. Each building his own shrine
  - d. Having the carved images of their gods (idols)
  - e. Designating names of their places of worship
4. God's people must destroy all the above ways of worship
5. The captivity in BABYLON – the result of disobeying God's word
  - a. The tower of Babel – the basic principle of Satan's building (Gen. 11:19)
  - b. The captivity of God's people in Babylon (2 Chron. 36:11-21)
  - c. The beginning of building "synagogues"
6. "Seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go" (Deut. 12:5)

- B. The offerings:** “There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks” (Deut. 12:6, 11)
1. Keep the feast (Exod. 23:14-17; 34:23; Deut. 16:16-17)
  2. All the males should appear before the Lord (Exod. 23:17; 34:23)
  3. None shall come empty handed (Exod. 23:15; 34:20; Deut. 16:16)
  4. The offerings are God’s food or bread for God’s enjoyment (Lev. 3:11, 21:6, 8, 17; Num. 28:2)
  5. They are also for the people to eat and enjoy together in Jerusalem (Deut. 12:7, 12)
  6. Only in Jerusalem – “Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see ... but in the place which the LORD chooses...” (Deut. 12:13-14; 15:19-20)

## **II. The reality of worship in the age of the New Covenant** (John 4:19-24)

### **A. The hour is NOW (Since the New Covenant began)**

### **B. The Father seeks the true worshipers**

1. God is Spirit
2. True worshipers **MUST** worship Him in spirit

### **C. The New Jerusalem - the place in the New Testament age is spiritual and heavenly in nature**

1. The church today is the heavenly Jerusalem (Gal. 4:25-26; Heb. 11:10, 16; 12:22)
2. A spiritual temple – a spiritual house, and the spiritual Zion (1 Pet. 2:4-7)
  - a. Being built up into a holy temple in spirit (Eph. 2:21-22)
  - b. With the saints as the living stones

- c. The house of the living God (1 Tim. 3:15-16)
  - The pillar and base of the truth (reality)
  - God manifested in the flesh
  - Justified in spirit
- d. Keeping the oneness of the Spirit (Eph. 4:3-6)
- 3. The true (real) worshipers
  - a. Born of the Spirit of God in their human spirit (John 3:3-6)
  - b. A true Jew (Gal. 4:28-29; Rom. 2:28-29)
    - Not outwardly in the flesh nor of the letter
    - But inwardly in the heart and in spirit
    - Who worship God in spirit, rejoice in Jesus Christ and have no confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3)
    - “Whose praise (or approval) is not from men but from God” (Rom. 2:29)
  - c. Living and walking in spirit (Gal. 5:16, 25; Rom. 8:1, 4-5, 12-14)

#### **D. In reality (truth)**

- 1. Jesus Christ – the spiritual reality of all the truths in the Bible (John 14:1-6)
  - a. All positive things recorded in the Scriptures are “a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ” (Col. 2:16-17)
  - b. “The way” is the true way of worshiping the Father
  - c. “The truth” is Christ as the reality of all the offerings
  - d. “The life” is the Spirit (John 6:63)
  - e. The place is the “Father’s house” – the church
- 2. Experiencing Christ as the reality of all the offerings in Leviticus chapters 1-7
  - a. Being the holy priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5) – pursuing holiness (1 Pet. 1:16; Heb. 12:14)
  - b. Being a people living Christ (Phil. 1:21a), gaining Him (Phil. 3:8) and pursuing Him (Phil. 3:10-15)

- c. Laboring diligently on Christ daily as the burnt offering, meal offering, peace offering, sin offering and trespass offering in all circumstances
- d. Bringing the best of your real experiences of Christ to the meetings
  - To offer them to the Father as spiritual sacrifices for His satisfaction and enjoyment
  - As a feast for the enjoyment, encouragement and edification of the saints

**E. The spiritual and material Babylon in the NT age  
(Revelation 17-18)**

- 1. Captivity due to the degradation of the churches in the beginning (Rev. chapters 2-3)
  - a. Leaving the first (best) love (2:4)
  - b. Loving the world (2:12-13)
  - c. The works of “Nicolaitans” (2:6, 15)
  - d. The doctrine of Balaam (2:14)
  - e. Tolerating Jezebel and the “mystery of Satan” (2:20, 24)
  - f. Having a name <or reputation> of being alive, but being dead (3:1)
  - g. Being proud and lukewarm (3:15-17)
  - h. The “synagogue of Satan”
- 2. God’s call: “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues” (Rev. 18:4-5)